

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: COUNCIL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 26, ITEM III: NATO RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REF: (A) NATO DOCUMENT PO/73/111, AUGUST 2, 1973

(B) USNATO 4381

(C) STATE 187815

1. SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 26 NAC, PERMREPS DISCUSSED SYG'S
PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH NATO RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT LENGTH,
FINALLY REFERRING MATTER TO COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
CULTURAL RELATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SYG PANSA INTRODUCED DISCUSSION OF NATO RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BY RESTATEMENT OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSAL
TO USE THESE FUNDS ON OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (REF A).
EMPHASIZED THAT THIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT IMPLY THAT FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM WAS WITHOUT VALUE, BUT THAT IT WAS LESS COST-EFFECTIVE
THAN OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT BE INAUGURATED OR EXPANDED.

3. DELEGATIONS SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF DISCONTINUATION OF FELLOW-
SHIP PROGRAM WERE: CANADA, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, U.K.
AND U.S. ALL BUT NETHERLANDS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR SECRETARY
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GENERAL'S ALTERNATE PROPOSALS D AND E (REFS. B AND C). NETHER-L
LANDS PREFERENCE WAS FOR PROPOSALS A AND B.

4. DELEGATIONS SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF CONTINUATION OF FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM WERE: DENMARK, FRANCE, GREECE, ICELAND, ITALY AND TURKEY.

5. TURNING POINT IN DEBATE CAME WHEN DE ROSE (FRANCE) ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTION SPOKE AT LENGTH AND STATED THAT GOF DID NOT FIND SYG'S REASONING AT ALL PERSUASIVE. SAID THAT FACT THAT BUDGETARY NEEDS OF NATO INFORMATION PROGRAM WILL INCREASE IN COMING YEARS (LIKE BUDGETARY NEEDS OF OTHER NATO ELEMENTS) AND FACT THAT THERE ARE GOOD ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO USE FELLOWSHIP FUNDS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT REASONS FOR ABLISHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH IS JUST ABOUT ONLY NATO ACTIVITY IN CULTURAL FIELD AND IMPORTANT CHANNEL TO UNIVERSITIES AND TO YOUNG SCHOLARS. SAID THAT FACT THAT 97.9 PERCENT OF NATO'S FELLOWSHIP FUNDS WENT TO NATURAL SCIENCES AND ONLY 2.1 PERCENT TO SOCIAL SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM UNDER CONSIDERATION ALREADY REPRESENTED GREAT INBALANCE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE MADE WORSE.

6. ITALIAN REP'S DEFENSE OF PROGRAM WAS BASED MAINLY ON EXPECTATION THAT ITS ABOLITION WOULD CAUSE GREAT DISILLUSIONMENT IN ITALIAN ACADEMIC CIRCLES. INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF PROGRAM COULD NOT BE CONTINUED, ITALY WOULD PREFER SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS D AND E.

7. DEFENSE OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM BY FOUR OTHER DELEGATIONS (DENARK, GREECE, ICELAND, TURKEY) WAS VAGUE, BUT SEEMED MAINLY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE NOT TO ELIMIAE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN COUTRIES WHERE RELATIVELY FEW FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE. GREEK REP ADDED THAT IF PROGRAM COULD NOT BE CONTINUED, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER SYG'S ALTERNATE PROPOSAL A.

8. CANADIAN REP SUGGESTED THAT NEEDS OF SCHOLARS FROM THERE COUNTIRES MIGHT BE MET BY DIVERSION OF SOME OF FELLOWHIP FUNDS TO SYG'S PROPOSALS A AND C. NETHERLANDS REP MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTION FOR PROPOSALS A AND B.

9. BELGIAN REP (DE STAERCKE) SAID HE FOUND HIMSELF IN A DILEMMA SINCE HIS ADVISOR ON THIS QUESTION DID NOT AGREE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT (WHICH WERE TO ABOLISH PROGRAM). HE SAID HE WOULD THEREFORE GO ALONG WITH WISDOM OF SYG.
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10. COUNCIL DECIDED REMAND ISSUE TO COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS (CICR) FOR FURTHER STUDY AND TO REPOST BACK TO COUNCIL.

11. MISSION COMMENTS: FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY BE PLACED ON CICR AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 4 MEETING. NATO DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION IS CONSIDERING DRAFTING COMPROMISE FORMULA. MISSION RECOMMENDATION ON US APPROACH WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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